

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A method of structuring a computer database,  
said method comprising:

5                   providing an category table;

                  providing a content table containing content  
corresponding to categories in said category  
table;

                  providing a category contents table  
10                   containing a mapping scheme that maps content  
contained in said content table to categories in  
said category table;

                  providing an attributes table containing  
attributes for an application utilizing said  
15                   database; and

                  providing an attributes values table  
containing values corresponding to said attributes  
in said attributes table.

20           2. The method of Claim 1, further comprising  
providing a category relationships table containing  
category relationships and rules corresponding to  
categories in said category table.

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3. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

providing an attribute area table that defines the area of an application utilizing said database which is permitted to use certain of said attributes; and

providing an application area table that defines the areas of an application utilizing said database which may be referenced.

4. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

providing an attribute pre-defined value table that contains all pre-defined enumerated values for certain of said attributes; and

providing a category pre-defined values table that contains pre-defined values for certain categories in said category table.

5. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

providing a category types table that describes the category type for certain categories in said category table; and

providing a content type table that describes the type of content stored in said content table; and

providing a category relationship rule table that describes the relationship rules for said category types.

5           6.    The method of Claim 1, further comprising providing a content value table that contains the actual content corresponding to said content in said content table.

7.    The method of Claim 1, further comprising:  
10           providing a content relationships table that describes the relationship among said content in said content table; and

          providing a content relationship type table that defines the rationale for the relationship  
15           among said content in said content table.

8.    The method of Claim 1, further comprising:  
          providing a parameter names table that defines names of parameters;  
20           providing an application parameter type table that groups parameter types; and  
          providing a parameter value table that defines values for said parameters in said parameter names table.

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9. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

providing a template table that provides templates that are used to present categories and said content;

5 providing a template types table that defines types of templates; and

providing a presentation method table that identifies which of said templates are used to display said categories and said content.

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10. A computer system for storing and transferring data, said system comprising:

at least one server computer connected through a computer network; and

15 at least one computer program executed by said at least one server computer, wherein said at least one computer program manages data stored in a database having a structure comprising:

a category table;

20 a content table containing content corresponding to categories in said category table;

25 a category contents table containing a mapping scheme that maps content contained in said content table to categories in said category table;

an attributes table containing  
attributes for an application utilizing said  
database; and

5 an attributes values table containing  
values corresponding to said attributes in  
said attributes table.

11. The system of Claim 10, wherein said database  
structure further comprises a category relationships  
10 table containing category relationships and rules  
corresponding to categories in said category table.

12. The system of Claim 10, wherein said database  
structure further comprises:

15 an attribute area table that defines the  
area of an application utilizing said  
database which is permitted to use certain of  
said attributes; and

20 an application area table that defines  
the areas of an application utilizing said  
database which may be referenced.

13. The system of Claim 10, wherein said database  
structure further comprises:

an attribute pre-defined value table  
that contains all pre-defined enumerated  
values for certain of said attributes; and

5 a category pre-defined values table that  
contains pre-defined values for certain  
categories in said category table.

14. The system of Claim 10, wherein said database  
structure further comprises:

10 a category types table that describes  
the category type for certain categories in  
said category table; and

15 a content type table that describes the  
type of content stored in said content table;  
and

a category relationship rule table that  
describes the relationship rules for said  
category types.

20 15. The system of Claim 10, wherein said database  
structure further comprises providing a content value  
table that contains the actual content corresponding to  
said content in said content table.

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16. The system of Claim 10, wherein said database structure further comprises:

5 a content relationships table that describes the relationship among said content in said content table; and

a content relationship type table that defines the rationale for the relationship among said content in said content table.

10 17. The system of Claim 10, wherein said database structure further comprises:

a parameter names table that defines names of parameters;

15 an application parameter type table that groups parameter types; and

a parameter value table that defines values for said parameters in said parameter names table.

20 18. The system of Claim 10, wherein said database structure further comprises:

a template table that provides templates that are used to present categories and said content;

a template types table that defines types of templates; and

5 a presentation method table that identifies which of said templates are used to display said categories and said content.

19. The system of Claim 10, further comprising a web server computer to provide Internet access to said at least one server computer.

10 20. A method of structuring a computer database, said method comprising:

providing an entity table having a minimal set of attributes;

15 providing an entity attributes table having attributes corresponding to said entity table; and

providing an entity attributes values table having values corresponding to said attributes.

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21. The method of Claim 20, further comprising:

providing a content table containing content corresponding to said entity table; and



providing an entity contents table that maps said content to a corresponding entity.

22. The method of Claim 20, further comprising  
5 providing an entity relationships table that contains relationships and rules corresponding to entities in said entity table.

23. A computer system for storing and transferring data, said system comprising:

10 at least one server computer connected through a computer network; and

at least one computer program executed by said at least one server computer, wherein said at least one computer program manages  
15 data stored in a database having a structure comprising:

an entity table having a minimal set of attributes;

20 an entity attributes table having attributes corresponding to said entity table; and

an entity attributes values table having values corresponding to said attributes.

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24. The system of Claim 23, wherein said database further comprises:

a content table containing content corresponding to said entity table; and

5 an entity contents table that maps said content to a corresponding entity.

25. The system of Claim 23, wherein said database further comprises an entity relationships table that  
10 contains relationships and rules corresponding to entities in said entity table.

26. A method of structuring a database, said method comprising:

15 creating a data objects table containing attributes;

creating an attributes table containing properties of said attributes in said data objects table; and

20 creating a value table containing values for said properties for specific instances of said attributes.

27. The method of Claim 26, further comprising creating a relationships table containing object  
25 relationships corresponding to said attributes in said data objects table.

28. The method of Claim 26, further comprising providing at least one foreign key in said value table to identify which value corresponds to a specific instance of said attributes for said properties.

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29. A computer system for storing and transferring data, said system comprising:

at least one server computer connected through a computer network; and

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at least one computer program executed by said at least one server computer, wherein said at least one computer program manages data stored in a database having a structure comprising:

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creating a data objects table containing attributes;

creating an attributes table containing properties of said attributes in said data objects table; and

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creating a value table containing values for said properties for specific instances of said attributes.

30. The system of Claim 29, wherein said database structure further comprises a relationships table

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containing object relationships corresponding to said attributes in said data objects table.

31. The method of Claim 29, wherein said database  
5 structure further comprises at least one foreign key in  
said value table to identify which value corresponds to  
a specific instance of said attributes for said  
properties.